The meeting was called to order at 11.50 a.m.

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.38/Rev.1)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.38/Rev.1: Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013 (*continued*)

1. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications. He took it that the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure.

2. **Ms. Montel** (France) said that as the French text of the draft resolution was not yet available, her delegation reserved the right to make comments on or amendments to it in due course.

3. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan), made minor editorial corrections to the draft resolution and said that the delegations of China, Finland, Honduras, Hungary, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Luxembourg, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal and the Republic of Korea had become sponsors.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.38/Rev.1, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

5. **Mr. Khodjaev** (Uzbekistan) said his delegation concurred that water was critical for agriculture and food production, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, as well as being indispensable to human health and well-being. However, his Government did not consider the high-level international conference on water cooperation referred to in paragraph 3 of the resolution to be a United Nations event. Therefore, its outcome document should not be considered or interpreted in the future as representing the position of all Member States or as an internationally agreed, legally binding instrument. In an effort to preserve the consensus, his delegation would not participate in the adoption of the resolution and his Government would not be bound by any obligations arising from it.

6. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation welcomed the adoption of the resolution by consensus as proof of the importance that the Committee attached to issues pertaining to water. Joint efforts at all levels during the International Year of Water Cooperation would make a significant contribution towards achievement of the internationally agreed goals with regard to water.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.5, L.7, L. 19, L.40, L.41 and L.42)

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.5 and L.41: Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations (*continued*)

7. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.5. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.41 was adopted.*

9. **Ms. Şerbetci** (Turkey) said that her delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because it addressed important issues with respect to the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea and because her Government fully supported the efforts of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources. However, it disassociated itself from the resolution's references to international instruments to which Turkey was not a party and stressed that those references should not be interpreted as a change in her country's legal position with regard to those instruments.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.5 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.7 and L.42: International Year of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

11. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on

draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.7. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. **Ms. Bosio** (France) said that as the French text of the draft resolution was not yet available, her delegation reserved the right to make comments on or amendments to it in due course.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.42 was adopted.*

14. **Ms. Deiye** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the resolution merited the Committee's full support; the designation of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States would raise awareness of the special situation of those States and mobilize international support for their sustainable development.

15. **Mr. Devanlay** (Observer for the European Union) said that the European Union and its member States were committed to the sustainable development of the small island developing States through implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. However, it wished to reiterate its position that the proclamation of international days, years and decades must be consistent with the international guidelines that had been set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 and reaffirmed in General Assembly resolutions 53/199 and 61/185. The European Union would have liked to have an opportunity for further discussion of the alternatives proposed during informal consultations; however, in a spirit of compromise, its member States had joined the consensus on the draft resolution. It would, however, continue to defend the Council's guidelines and to prioritize efficiency and cost-effectiveness in the work of the General Assembly with a view to its revitalization.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.7 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions A/C.2/67/L.19 and L.40: Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

17. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19.

18. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee), explaining the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that, should a third international conference on small island developing States be held in Samoa, the host Government would need to defray the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243.

19. Non-post requirements of $314,000 for the biennium 2014-2015 would include a non-recurrent provision, equivalent to one P-3 position for 12 months, to provide analytical support for the global preparatory process, including the preparation of background and synthesis papers, and a non-recurrent provision of $154,300 for the organization of a four-day expert group meeting in New York to prepare technical and substantive inputs for the Conference. Non-post requirements of $206,500 for the biennium 2014-2015 would also include a non-recurrent provision in the amount of $106,500, equivalent to one P-3 position for eight months, to provide substantive and organizational preparations for and servicing of the meetings relating to preparations for the conference, including pre-conference events, the intergovernmental preparatory committee and the negotiations of the conference and the outcome documents; a non-recurrent provision in the amount of $50,000 for the provision of consultant services for specialized expertise not available in the Secretariat in order to assist in the development and execution of a strategic advocacy strategy aimed at building consensus among Member States around a core set of issues in the lead-up to the Conference; and a non-recurrent provision in the amount of $50,000 for layout and printing of advocacy materials and publications.

20. The requirements for the holding of a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States and the interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States in 2013, mentioned in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, would be met from voluntary contributions. As the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, would further consider the modalities, format and organization of the meeting of the preparatory committee, to be held in early 2014, and of the conference, it was not yet possible to estimate the potential implications of the requirements for meetings and documentation. Once those matters had been decided, the Secretary-General would submit the

requirements in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure.

21. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, no additional requirements would arise for the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The additional requirements of $520,000, including $314,000 under section 9 (Economic and social affairs) and $206,000 under section 10 (Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States), would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

22. **Ms. Hodžić** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) made a minor editorial correction to the draft resolution.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.40, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

24. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19 was withdrawn.*

25. **The Chair** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/67/313).

26. *It was so decided.*

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/67/L.20 and L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.43: Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind (*continued*)

27. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.43, which had been submitted by the Rapporteur, Ms. Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.20. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.43 was adopted.*

29. **Mr. Laguna** (Mexico) said that the outcome of the negotiations on the draft resolution had not fully reflected his delegation's expectations. In light of the scientific evidence that corroborated the urgent need for collective action and for the active participation of all States, the draft resolution should strengthen global efforts to address the problem of climate change. The General Assembly should send a balanced and comprehensive political message regarding implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that faithfully reflected the understandings reached within the framework of that instrument. International negotiations under the Convention were at a delicate stage in the transition to a stronger regime and the bodies and working groups mandated to oversee its implementation did not act in a vacuum; there were a number of interlinked factors at play.

30. While his delegation welcomed the adoption of a final, balanced text that recognized that complex reality, it regretted that the Committee had taken so long to reach agreement on the text of the draft resolution. Delegations should refrain from adopting selective approaches that sought to prejudge the outcome of multilateral discussions in other forums and all decisions taken at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should be implemented as agreed, without ambiguity and in good faith.

31. **Ms. Nemroff** (United States of America) said that climate change was a key priority for President Obama's administration; her country had reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 9 per cent from the 2005 levels and was actively engaged with its international partners in addressing the issue at the global level. Significant progress had been made and she hoped that that process would continue at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

32. The seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties had taken a major step forward by moving away from the unsustainable "developed versus developing countries" paradigm with a view to developing a regime that would be applicable to all States parties and would reflect evolving global emissions trends and economic circumstances. While her delegation had hoped that the draft resolution would better reflect those more recent approaches, it would continue to work constructively with others in addressing that important issue.

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.20 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.